

**Amendments to the Abstract**

Please **amend** the Abstract to read.

-- A video encoder ~~(100)~~ is disclosed, the encoder for encoding image frames that are divisible into macroblocks. The video encoder ~~(100)~~ includes means ~~(130)~~ for generating a QP estimate for the macroblocks of an image frame. The video encoder further includes means ~~(100)~~ for selection of a frame level quantization parameter (QP) for the image frame, using one of mean, median, and mode of QP estimates for the macroblocks. A method for encoding video is disclosed for encoding image frames that are divisible into macroblocks. The method generates ~~(225)~~ a quantization parameter (QP) estimate for the macroblocks of an image frame and selects ~~(230)~~ a frame level QP for the image frame, using one of mean, median, and mode of QP estimates for the macroblocks.

[fig. 2 selected]